

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub A¹7

1. An e-mail processing method comprising the steps of:
identifying a type of data of a received e-mail; and
determining whether not the received e-mail is to be
utilized in accordance with the identified type of data.

2. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising
the steps of:
registering an arbitrary type of data in advance; and
determining that the e-mail is to be utilized when the
identified type of data coincides with the registered type
of data.

3. A method according to Claim 1, wherein, when it has
been determined that the e-mail is to be utilized, the e-
mail is preserved as a file.

4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein, when it has
been determined that the e-mail is not to be utilized, the
e-mail is not preserved.

5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein, when it has
been determined that the e-mail is not to be utilized, the
e-mail is read and then abandoned.

09337546-062299

Sub A⁷

6. A method according to Claim 5, wherein a presence of an e-mail to be read and then abandoned is notified for external use.

7. A method according to Claim 1, wherein, when it has been determined that the e-mail is not to be utilized, reception of the e-mail is interrupted.

8. A method according to Claim 1, wherein a presence of an e-mail which has been determined not to be utilized is notified for external use.

9. A method according to Claim 1, wherein identification of the type of data is performed for each of a plurality of data contained in the e-mail.

Sub A²

10. A method according to Claim 1, wherein when it has been determined that the e-mail is not to be utilized, a subsequent process is selectable from among a plurality of predetermined processes.

Sub B⁷

11. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the type of data comprises a text.

00337546-06299

Sub B⁷

12. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the type of data comprises an image.

Sub A³

13. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the identification of the type of data is performed by analyzing the received e-mail.

Sub B⁷

14. A method according to Claim 1, wherein a character string is retrieved from the received e-mail, and the type of data is identified according to a reference character string specified based on a position in the received e-mail where the retrieved character string is present.

Sub A⁴

15. An e-mail processing apparatus comprising:

type identification means for identifying a type of data of a received e-mail; and

determination means for determining whether not the received e-mail is to be utilized in accordance with the identified type of data.

16. An apparatus according to Claim 15, further comprising storage means for storing an arbitrary type of data, wherein said determination means determines that the e-mail is to be utilized when the identified type of data coincides with the stored type of data.

09337546-062299

Sub A⁴ 7

17. An apparatus according to Claim 15, further comprising preservation control means for preserving the e-mail as a file when said determination means has been determined that the e-mail is to be utilized.

18. An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein, when said determination means has determined that the e-mail is not to be utilized, said preservation control means performs control so as not to preserve the e-mail.

19. An apparatus according to Claim 15, further comprising control means for performing control so as to read and then abandon the e-mail when said determination means has determined that the e-mail is not to be utilized.

20. An apparatus according to Claim 19, further comprising notification means for notifying, for external use, a presence of an e-mail to be read and then abandoned.

21. An apparatus according to Claim 15, further comprising communication control means for performing control so as to interrupt reception of the e-mail when said determination means has determined that the e-mail is not to be utilized.

06337545-052299

Sub A⁴ >

22. An apparatus according to Claim 15, further comprising notification means for notifying, for external use, a presence of an e-mail which has been determined not to be utilized by said determination means.

23. An apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said type identification means performs identification of the type of data for each of a plurality of data contained in the e-mail.

Sub A⁵ >

24. An apparatus according to Claim 15, further comprising selection means for causing a subsequent process to be selectable from among a plurality of predetermined processes when said determination means has determined that the e-mail is not to be utilized.

Sub B¹ >

25. An apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein the type of data comprises a text.

26. An apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein the type of data comprises an image.

27. An apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said type identification means identifies the type of data by

09337545.062299

Sub B⁷

analyzing the received e-mail.

28. An apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said type identification means retrieves a character string from the received e-mail, and identifies the type of data according to a reference character string specified based on a position in the received e-mail where the retrieved character string is present.

Sub A⁵

29. A storage medium, capable of being read by a computer, storing control software, said control software comprising:

a control program for identifying a type of data of a received e-mail; and

a control program for determining whether not the received e-mail is to be utilized in accordance with the identified type of data.

30. A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein said control software further comprises:

a control program for reading a type of data which has been registered in advance in a memory; and

a control program for determining that the e-mail is to be utilized when the identified type of data coincides with the read type of data.

09337546-062299

Sub A⁶ >

31. A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein said control software further comprises a control program for preserving the e-mail as a file when it has been determined that the e-mail is to be utilized.

32. A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein said control software further comprises a control program for performing control so as not to preserve the e-mail when it has been determined that the e-mail is not to be utilized.

33. A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein said control software further comprises a control program for performing control so as to read and then abandon the e-mail when it has been determined that the e-mail is not to be utilized.

34. A storage medium according to Claim 33, wherein said control software further comprises a control program for notifying, for external use, a presence of the e-mail to be read and then abandoned.

35. A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein said control software further comprises a control program

09337546-062299

Sub A⁶ 7

for interrupting reception of the e-mail when it has been determined that the e-mail is not to be utilized.

36. A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein said control software further comprises a control program for notifying, for external use, a presence of the e-mail which has been determined not to be utilized.

37. A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein said control software further comprises a control program for performing identification of the type of data for each of a plurality of data contained in the e-mail.

Sub A⁷ 7

38. A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein said control software further comprises a control program for causing a subsequent process to be selectable from among a plurality of predetermined processes when it has been determined that the e-mail is not to be utilized.

39. A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein said control software further comprises a control program for identifying the type of data by analyzing the received e-mail.

40. A control program according to Claim 29, wherein

00337546.052299

SubA⁷

said control software further comprises a control program for retrieving a character string from the received e-mail, and identifying the type of data according to a character string specified based on a position in the received e-mail where the retrieved character string is present.

09337546 "062299
662299" 945/EE60